



First Larne Presbyterian Church

# Bridge News

Worship God, Build His Kingdom, Share His Love

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” John 14:6



Farewell to Jax



Mending the broken after Covid 19

- Starting over again...
- Toddlers Group
- Kids Church
- Youth Church & FLY
- Presbyterian Women
- Women's Circle
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- Small Groups
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- Community Fun Day

## Autumn Edition 2021 No. 413

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# COLIN'S COLUMN

on Britain's roads there are almost a quarter of a million electric cars, compared to just a few thousand a decade ago. This is happening as the government is aiming to phase out the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2035.

This is a change we have all become more committed to as we realise the health of our planet is at stake. If we had not been taking notice of what has been happening elsewhere in our world, the recent devastating climate change tragedies, fires and floods, closer to home in parts of Europe should be a wake-up call. It seems if we are not prepared to make changes then changes

will take place that will sweep us, our children and grandchildren away, sometimes literally!



So, if I care for my planet, my grandchildren and my global neighbours the option of "no change" does not exist.

Eighteen months ago, on Monday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, when the Prime Minister gave his "You must stay at home" broadcast I heard the message through a surreal filter. Little did I know how the twists and turns of a global pandemic would affect our lives and how Covid regulations would severely restrict our options for "normal" living. So many changes were imposed by statute, guidance or social responsibility that we would not previously have contemplated, except in the grim imaginings of a far-fetched apocalyptic horror movie.

And yet, we quickly realised the need for change if we were to survive and increase the chances of survival for some of the most vulnerable of our loved ones and neighbours.

Before looking any further into the future let me acknowledge the respect and gratitude due to those members of Kirk Session, Committee and

## NO CHANGE!

..... that is what I do when it comes to changing my cars. It is not just the cost involved. When it does what I want it to do and I have become comfortable and familiar with how it works and developed a routine for keeping it on the road I am reluctant to contemplate starting all over again. Hence, I usually resist changing my car until that moment when I have no other choice!

The car I came to Larne with ended up clocking up over 350,000 miles. We had covered a lot of ground and made many memories together! Mechanics kept reassuring me that the engine was "bullet-proof". They were right. The engine at the core of the beloved vehicle was still ticking over. The difficulty was that, after fifteen years of solid service, almost everything else on and in the car was failing or falling off. Despite the engine ticking over and the wheels going round the car was no longer roadworthy.

I now have my present car almost eight years.



True to form, I am hoping this 2010 model Vauxhall Vectra will do me for a few more years. However, when the time comes to part with it I face a bigger and more fundamental change than ever before. You have maybe noticed the change that is taking place with our cars. Indeed, you may already be well ahead of me in the change. Today

others who have given unstintingly of themselves at a time of severe pressure to ensure we have navigated through the changes and challenges of this pandemic. Some have been prominent, others not as visible or audible – but all vital. You may not know who they are - but God knows! So successful have they been that you may not have witnessed their work – but God knows!

As a new church year gets underway there will be change like never before. It will be costly and we may have to loosen our grip on the familiar as we embrace the opportunities of a fresh normality. As restrictions ease the one thing we must not be tempted to do is expend our energy only rushing back in a futile attempt to rebuild what we imagined was in place before. If that is our response our future is sealed!

We are moving forward into a world of change – with or without a pandemic. You will have observed how the values of our society continue to shift. What had been respected has now become despised and ridiculed. Yesterday's heroes have become today's villains. Maybe some of those changes are long overdue. But let us resist the temptation to expend all our energies decrying the change. Are we prepared to contemplate the possibility that this is our moment? Do we still believe that what we represent is what is best for our world, our families and our neighbours?

Like the engine of that old car of mine, at core the source of our power has not changed. So many of the "add-ons" have served their purpose and done their time. Inspired by the Spirit we continue to be agents of the Word of God which continues to be

that sword that cuts open our secret motives, that mirror that reflects our hearts, and that light that guides our way.

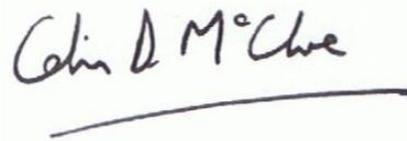
In a world overtaken by change and fake news, where it is difficult to know who to trust, we are sincerely and humbly offering God's Word that can tell us how it really is, why it really is and who we really are.

As we move forward into a world of change, we move into that world with the Word of God which is always true, always good and always relevant.

In this new church session like no other we have previously experienced, change is inevitable. Yes! It will be costly. Yes! It may be uncomfortable and unfamiliar at times.

But surely the prospect of refreshing our way of effectively and efficiently travelling together as Church is inspiring.

In our hearts and on our lips may it be "Yes! Change.... Lord, if that's what you are calling us to."

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Colin D McClure". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Rev. Colin McClure**

# Rebuilding after the Covid storm

**The pandemic-storm has uncovered the kindness of strangers and the gold within our communities, but it has also compounded the difficulties faced by the most vulnerable. David Smyth suggests three principles to guide the post-Covid rebuilding of society.**

The Japanese art of Kintsugi involves using gold to mend cracks in broken pottery, with the finished vessel considered even more beautiful and valuable because of its journey to restoration. Post-Covid, we need some Kintsugi in our own communities.



*He stood silently, slowly taking in the ruins he once called home.*

*Rain falling, groundwater rising.*

*Dawn shedding fresh light on his foolish decision to build a house on sand.*

I first heard the story in Sunday school - you know, the one Jesus told about the wise man who built his house on a rock and the foolish one who built his house on sand. You don't have to be a structural engineer to question foundations of sand, so it's no surprise that when the rain came tumbling down so did the foolish man's house. Who would make such an obvious mistake?

But watch out, for the beauty and the peril of many of Jesus' parables is that just in the moment when we are about to condemn the 'fool', we recognise ourselves. And I can't help but think as I look around today that we have built much of our lives on sand.

This pandemic-storm has uncovered the kindness of strangers and the gold within local communities. However, it has compounded difficult circumstances for those who were already vulnerable - children in the care system, women suffering from domestic

violence, those living with profound disability or mental ill health, the elderly, hungry, poor and lonely.

Pre-existing inequalities around social justice, health and education have been highlighted and deepened. Globally, demonstrations about climate change, race and violence against women are shaking old foundations. Locally, the violence of recent weeks is like a symptom which reveals a deeper illness, the sticking-plaster has fallen off but the cancer grows untreated - kicked down the political waiting list.

So today, standing knee-deep in wet sand, it seems we have a choice to make. Sure, we can reconstruct over the old ruins. Continue to buy things we don't need with money we don't have. Perpetuate systems locally and globally where the rich possess more and the poor less. Keep building our sense of self around the tribal politics of old battles or the identity politics of new culture wars. But what would it look like to rebuild on more solid ground?

This parable Jesus told came right at the end of one of the most famous speeches in history, the Sermon on the Mount. It was his parting challenge, the words ringing in the ears of the crowd as they descended the mountain - would they build their lives on Jesus' words or not?

As head of the Evangelical Alliance in NI you might expect me to say this, but we cannot read the Sermon on the Mount, this parable and consider the rebuild, without pointing to Jesus. I cannot help but believe that He is the rock, the ultimate foundation on which to rebuild our broken and dislocated lives. He is good news for every human heart and molecule of His creation.

But I understand that we will not all agree on the blueprint; we have different visions of the common good we want to create.

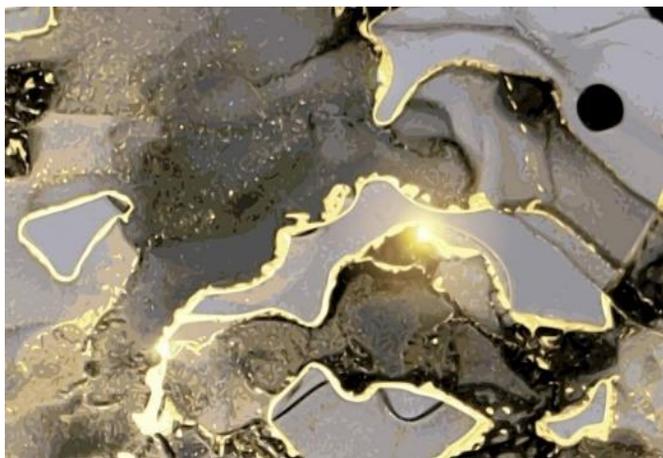
Many will choose not to follow in the way of Jesus but may I suggest three words, which deeply reflect his teachings and which are good, true and beautiful for our society whatever you believe?

## RELATIONSHIPS

This is what life and the human experience is all about. The source of our deepest joy and our most profound pain; in fact almost every issue comes down to how we live alongside others. For followers of Jesus, we follow him into sacrificial death to ourselves and new resurrected life in the service of God and others. And so our relationships with family, friends, neighbours, strangers and even our enemies are fundamentally reoriented.

In love, Jesus moved towards those who were sick and sinful, despised and broken, not away from them in disgust. He did not approve of every behaviour he encountered, he did not leave people unchallenged or unchanged, though he never left anyone unloved.

New foundations for a new society will require new sacrifices and new relationships - especially with those who we disagree with.



## RECONCILIATION

There's a danger that this word has become so politicised that we miss the meaning.

This is a high bar, beyond truth, justice and forgiveness - all beautiful and vital things in themselves. But reconciliation takes us further - the repair and restoration of a relationship that has been lost or broken.

The Japanese art of Kintsugi paints a good picture of reconciliation. It involves the reconstruction of broken pottery using gold to mend the cracks. The restored vessel is considered even more beautiful and valuable because of its journey to restoration.

We need exceptional politicians but we also need more 'artists' to create some Irish Kintsugi.

## REPENTANCE

Now bear with me, because many people who grew up here only know this word from a quick glimpse of a handwritten Bible verse pinned to a tree in deepest Co Armagh or a thundering street preacher.

In the Bible it means to genuinely and wholeheartedly 'turn around' or 'think again'. A rebuke, yes, but a loving invitation too. It's a message Jesus preached a lot: stop, turn around, think again - come and taste and see a wholly new and abundant way of life.

There will be many temptations in the months ahead to build back on sand, to stick a plaster over the cancer. This is easier, quicker and will look good in the short term, but what happens when the next storm comes?

A foundation of strong relationships, genuine reconciliation and wholehearted repentance will not stop the storm, but surely it's time to think again, turn around and build back on better foundations

David Smyth is head of the Evangelical Alliance in Northern Ireland.

[This article was first published in the Irish News on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and then by EANI to share widely.]



# Farewell to Jax

Jacqueline McCallum, known to us all as Jax, joined First Larne as our Community Support Worker in 2016 in conjunction with Latin Link. After five years with First Larne, Jax has been invited to take up the post of E3 East Antrim Schools Worker (one year maternity cover) for Scripture Union Northern Ireland.

At her last official service on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021, our Clerk of Kirk Session Robin Tweed expressed the thanks of our Congregation to Jax for her ministry and service over the past 5 years. He said “You have worked tirelessly in this role, and we have been blessed by your presence with us. Your enthusiasm, dedication and commitment has been inspiring and we are deeply grateful to you.”

“We wish you well for this new opportunity and look forward to working alongside you in your new East Antrim E3 role as you engage with young people, teachers and local churches to be salt and light for Christ and his kingdom.”

Robin, along with Kids’ Church, presented flowers to Jax as a token of our appreciation. If you would like to contribute to a presentation to Jax please place your gift (with cheques payable to First Larne) in an envelope marked ‘Presentation to Jax’ along with your name and FWO number and bring to church or give to any Elder or member of Congregational Committee. We look forward to Jax returning in the Autumn as our guest on a date to be arranged.

Jax has some thoughts and thanks for us .....

“It is with a mixture of emotions that I sit here writing these words. THANK YOU TO ALL IN FIRST LARNE and the wider Larne community for these really special five years. It has been a blessing and a joy for me to be part of your community for all these years. I have loved being part of so many ministries both inside our church building and outside it. I have loved getting to know each and every one of you from the youngest kids, through our young people and adults. It has been a privilege and I look forward to continue to partner with you all in my new role with Scripture Union.

These last 18 months have been extremely difficult for us all in different ways. The Covid-19 pandemic

has shaken us and we have lost many loved ones from our church family and wider community, and we have not been able to spend as much time together in fellowship. But I love seeing so many of you stand strong and faithful, not giving up, but fighting and supporting one another in everyday gestures and seeking ways to creatively and safely be there for each other in fellowship.

My prayer is that you may all continue to grow as a church and as individuals in your relationships with our Lord Jesus Christ. That as a church, you continue to seek ways to open and study His Word in ways that are accessible for all ages, that you continue to spend time in prayer, in mission and in fellowship with one another.

Thank you for all the love and support you have given me all these years, it’s been a privilege to be part of the First Larne church family. God bless each and everyone of you.

I look forward to our paths continuing to cross in Larne and beyond!

With all my love and prayers,  
Jax”



# Small Groups .....

## a space for personal encouragement & nourishment in and out of lockdown!

Throughout the pandemic our Small Groups have continued to meet online via Zoom, we have looked at a resource produced by PCI called HOME: A Migrant's Story. Home referred to the migrant situation we are experiencing here in Ireland and pointed us to the Bible, to the story of Ruth in the Old Testament.

It was very thought provoking and inspirational, and we thoroughly enjoyed reflecting how we as a church can welcome people from all nations and how we are all called to worship our God together.

In June we had two very special Small Group Celebrations! Instead of our annual BBQ, we headed to Carnfunnock Country Park for a picnic and, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June, Jax McCallum led us all in a Small Group Celebration Service where we got to share with the wider community what we had been learning in our Small Groups and got to hear from some of our members and leaders.

interested in the Wednesday women's group, please contact Rev. McClure.

We look forward to God continuing to bless us all as we find refuge and a space for personal encouragement and nourishment during lockdown and out of lockdown!

And finally, Jax McCallum has left some words of thanks:

“Special thanks to all of the ladies who have been part of the Wednesday evening small groups over my five years with First Larne, and special thanks to Jacqueline McKinley and those who have helped me to lead these groups.

I will miss our Bible studies, chats, fresh fruit and openly sharing and encouraging each other in our personal journeys with Jesus. I pray that you all will continue to grow in your personal

relationships with Him and that you continue to support & encourage one another in your faith and knowledge of Him and His word.”



We plan to return to in-person gatherings at the start of the new term in September (see the details at the end of this article). We are anticipating looking at another PCI resource called 'For Now' which will help us all strategically and Biblically think how we can continue to worship in such times as these.

If you would like to be part of our Small Groups, we would love to have you! We have several groups meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, so please speak to any of our Small Group leaders to find out more: Beverley Moore, Heather Murray, Sandy Lindsay and ... instead of Jax McCallum, if you are

### Starting back :

The Wednesday Women's group will meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm.

Bev's group will meet on 14<sup>th</sup> September at 11am.

Sandy's Group will meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7:30pm

# Kids Church during Covid-19 and beyond

Kids Church, like all our other organisations, had to adapt to change over the last 18 months. Although we all find change challenging and it isn't always a comfortable experience, Kids Church leaders, parents and children did their best to embrace it.

When face to face Kids Church wasn't possible we used on line resources via Facebook. As well as some great ready-to-use resources, leaders stepped up to the plate and recorded sessions themselves. A learning experience for us all! We also had a few Zoom sessions and really appreciated the participation of the children who joined in.

When allowed back in person, alongside our Facebook sessions, we had Kids Church on a Sunday morning, socially distanced of course. The biggest challenge has been to keep up the connection with the children and their parents. As expected our face to face contact has been very limited. Over the months regular "bag drops" have given an opportunity for "Hellos".

So how do we prepare to go forward with Kids Church? PRAYER, COMMITMENT, ENTHUSIASM, GOOD COMMUNICATION are words that come to mind.

As leaders, we realise that all of the above and more is necessary to build up Kids Church again and provide a meaningful children's ministry in First Larne. We recognise that friendships between the children and relationships between children and leaders, parents and leaders and between leaders themselves will have to be worked at and strengthened. To start this development we met for "Fun" afternoons at the Town Park in June and July. We hope to see lots of our families at the Fun Day at the church on September 4th.

We plan to start back with face to face Kids Church on September 5th, alongside the morning service. Leaders have chosen a new resource "HeartShaper" which we hope the children will enjoy and help them discover God through His word.

We would ask members of the congregation to remember the children, their parents and Kids Church leaders in their prayers. We need God's guidance and strength for our children's ministry.

Another request. We need more members of the congregation to assist with Kids Church. We cannot sit back and wait for someone from outside to come and drive this ministry forward. As members of First Larne church family we have made a commitment to our children and their spiritual development. Please consider seriously if you could be a part of this ministry.

Jane McClure



# Women's Circle 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year the Women's Circle celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and hope d.v. to have a celebration dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> October, venue to be confirmed. The picture below was taken at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

At the first Cradle Roll service in June 1961 a suggestion was made to start the Young Wives Circle, as it was known then. The first meeting was held in the Committee Room of the former church building on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1961. The aim of the Circle was to help in various ways with the younger children of the church and co-operate with the Cradle Roll secretary, Jean Grange. The members of the Circle helped with the distribution of Cradle Roll cards and, when Miss Grange retired, members continued with the work until 1992 when it was passed to the Young Women's Group.

Although the Circle name changed over the years, work with children continued. The ladies have also enjoyed working with others, organising the first Senior Member's Outing in 1964 which, with the support of many car drivers, continued until 1993. The Circle still support children's work with donations to Kids Church and the Presbyterian Children's Society. Overseas work has included sponsoring a child in Gambia, and some members individually sponsor children through Kids4school in Tanzania.

We have decided to meet monthly this year and hope to start the new season on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2:30pm in Room 4 and would welcome all ladies to join us.

Ina Ross



## Presbyterian Annual Conference

The PW ladies met up at the end of June & enjoyed an evening walk up the Inver River with lots of catch-up chat. Members also received a 'hug in a bag' as a little token to remind them that they were being thought about.

PW annual conference 2021 takes place on Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> September at 10:30 am.

The guest speaker is Sophie de Witt. Open to anyone and everyone, it will be streamed live at [www.presbyterianireland.org/PresbyterianWomenAnnualConference2021](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/PresbyterianWomenAnnualConference2021)

PW are looking forward to resuming again on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September after being apart for so long. It will be an informal evening with a warm welcome being extended to all ladies whether existing members or coming for the first time.

Janet Tweed and Lorna Swann



**ABAANA**

# A “Village of Fools” ?.....not any more

Cruel people in Uganda used to call Atukubui a “village of fools” because it had no school. But over the last few months a change has been taking place. Foundations were dug, walls were built, a roof was put in place....that was Phase One, classroom blocks and boys’ and girls’ toilets, with water tanks to collect rain fall from the roof.



Then the school was painted inside and out and filled with furniture and equipment for the children and teachers....that was Phase Two.

With the help of Abaana (and some support from people in First Larne) this community now has a chance of a brighter future. Abaana can now hope to fulfil their desire “to see the next generation from this village rise up to be tomorrows’ leaders, doctors, educators... the possibilities are endless!”

The school was completed in June just before Uganda went into another strict lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst we in N Ireland are blessed with the NHS and vaccines, life is much tougher in places like Uganda. There are only 218 intensive care beds for the whole country of 47 million people. Many have no formal employment or have lost their jobs and there is no government support such as furlough schemes. Abaana have an on-going appeal for funds to help the poorest, those who live from hand to mouth. A £50 package will cover some of the basic necessities like food and soap for a family for around a month. You can help by donating at [www.abaana.org](http://www.abaana.org)



Christian Aid Week 2021 was a bit different from previous years due to Covid-19 restrictions. The traditional red envelopes were delivered to households around Larne but people were asked to return them to collection points in local shops and churches rather than be collected by volunteers. The good news is that the people of Larne responded generously. The latest total for the amount raised is £9100 with another £1400 raised through Gift Aid – a record collection for Larne Christian Aid week.



Larne Christian Aid Action Group.

# Now There's a Thought ....Be Kind

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*  
Ephesians 4 v 32.

The phrase "Be kind" came to prominence in February 2020 following the tragic death of Caroline Flack. Just a few months earlier, she had posted the following words on her social media account: "In a world where you can be anything, be kind." The message of being kind spread rapidly as a result, challenging online hate and bullying. It was a timely challenge in a polarised digital landscape.

Long before this, around 62 AD, the Apostle Paul wrote the same little phrase to the Ephesian church. He encouraged them to embody values of kindness, compassion and forgiveness in how they related to one another. It was a timely message to the diverse religious and cultural backdrop that was the Ephesus community. With their mix of new Jewish and Gentile converts, it was important for this church not

to be characterised by division and hostility, but togetherness and kindness..

Paul's use of the 'Be kind' message was more than a feel-good mantra. It was grounded in the example of Christ himself. Our willingness to forgive flows from having received forgiveness from God ourselves. Kindness and compassion has been perfectly modelled to us by Jesus, and so we take our lead from him – the one who welcomed strangers, ate with betrayers, forgave deniers, walked with doubters, and has shown kindness to us.

"God's kindness leads you toward repentance." Reflect on that phrase from Romans 2:4 and let it lead you into prayer.

*This thought was originally part of the PCI "Tides" daily devotional series and was written by Rick Hill, PCI's Discipleship and Leadership Development Officer and an elder in Carnmoney congregation.*

## Church Financial Summary

**2020:** In our first year as the new Finance Team we are very grateful for the excellent support from our congregation. The new standing orders which were set up during the year, have been very helpful in allowing us to monitor our finances.

We received just over £22k from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which allowed us to keep most of our staff as it has paid 80% of their wages. Without this vital support we could not have afforded to keep our staff. Together with a reduction in expenses of around £17k, we have been able to meet all our financial obligations and have a little money left over.

However, even with this support, we were forced to make Amy Hunter, our co-ordinator of Youth and Family Ministry, redundant. We are delighted to hear that she has accepted a similar post in Dundonald Presbyterian Church.

We were able to meet our 2020 target of honour for United Appeal with around £20 extra being donated.

**2021:** This year we are still meeting our financial obligations, although there is little money left over when all our bills are paid. We remain very grateful

for the financial support from the members of our congregation.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will end soon, so we will be bringing back our staff from furlough and paying their wages once more, which will significantly increase our expenses.

As we slowly begin to open up our church activities our expenses (for example heating and lighting) will rise and we hope and pray that our income will increase to match this.

This year our target of honour for United Appeal is slightly lower than 2020, and we would ask you to continue to give generously so that we might meet this specific target.

The Treasury Team is very thankful for the excellent support from our congregation in these difficult times and we would encourage everyone to prayerfully consider their giving so that we may continue to pay our bills and meet future obligations.

**Eamonn, Shirley & Judith  
Treasury Team**

# Safe Families in Larne?



Most of us know that if we were facing difficult times our friends and family would be there to support us and help out. But for some people, there is no-one there to turn to for help.

Safe Families are a Christian charity who partner with churches to offer support, hope and belonging to improve the lives of families in crisis.

Safe Families UK started in England in 2013 and came to Northern Ireland in 2021, with over 1100 churches and 4,900 volunteers involved. We have helped church volunteers connect with almost 6,000 families and over 13,000 children – this support has reduced the flow of children into the care system and helped struggling families to cope with difficult situations.

We believe that love in action towards friend and stranger alike is at the heart of the Christian gospel, and that your church is vital for the transformation of your community and the support of families in Larne.

There are 3 ways you can get involved with Safe Families:



Volunteering - getting alongside someone in the community, such as meeting a parent for a chat or taking a child to the park.



Giving - donating resources for a family or by supporting our work financially.



Praying - we would love it if you could pray for us, volunteers and the families they support.

You can keep up to date with us on Facebook, @SafeFamiliesUK or via our website. [www.safefamilies.uk](http://www.safefamilies.uk) or get in touch with our team at [NorthernIreland@safefamilies.uk](mailto:NorthernIreland@safefamilies.uk)

## A Broken Hallelujah

**'And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.'** (Matthew 27:50)

'Love is not a victory march. It's a cold and it's a broken hallelujah.'

I can't tell you what John Cale was thinking of when he wrote this line. But it makes me think of Christ. Because love's arms were not raised in triumph; they were stretched out on the cross.

Love is strong because it is vulnerable; it overcomes because it serves; it is powerful because it does not strive for power.

Love doesn't climb ladders to get ahead; it gets stuck in at ground level.

Love is not desperate for the dawn; it sets up camp in the dark night of the soul and builds a fire.

Love does not dominate, segregate or accumulate.

Love would rather get nailed to a cross in a posture of inclusion than take up a sword to conquer.

Love wins because it is willing to lose.

Gideon Heugh (for Tear Fund)

As a child growing up in the countryside I learned about seasonal food way before it became the eco friendly trend that we hear so much about today. I always looked forward to late August and September, when everyone went out to pick mushrooms. The thrill of being first to find a fresh crop in the same spot each morning, coupled with the fear that a nearby neighbour might have got there before me, all added to the excitement. My childhood experiences remind me that every season is a gift from God, and to move on and enjoy whatever the next season may bring.

Arlene

### Garlic mushrooms with balsamic vinegar and thyme

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 5 Minutes    Cooking time: 5 Minutes

- 30g Dromona butter plus 15 ml olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 375g chestnut mushrooms, wiped clean and sliced
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 sprigs thyme, leaves plucked and finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 knob butter
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 ciabatta bread
- 1 pack rocket or young leaf salad



1. Melt the butter and oil in a medium sized pan, add the mushrooms and sauté over a medium heat for 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Add the garlic and thyme and sauté for a further 1-2 minutes.
3. Add the balsamic vinegar and seasoning and sizzle for 1 minute.
4. Add a knob of butter and allow to melt. Set aside.
5. Cut the ciabatta in half and then cut each half lengthwise and grill until golden.
6. Arrange the mushrooms on toasted slices of ciabatta bread and drizzle over the cooking juices.
7. Serve with young leaf salad and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

**COOKS TIPS:** As an alternative you can use large portobello mushrooms, filled with a paste made from the butter, garlic, thyme and balsamic vinegar and baked in the oven or BBQ until tender.



On 4th June First Larne Youth met at the church and walked to Maud's for ice-cream and to catch up. The most important part of the evening was the opportunity to meet with friends, some of whom we hadn't seen for 15 months..... Leaders Kate and Sandy were amazed at how much everyone had grown. FLY will start their new season on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 7-8:15pm

# CHURCH REGISTER

## BAPTISMS

Luca James Connor	36 Russell Court, Ballyclare	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Hugh Edward Andrew McCluggage	181B Ballysnod Road	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2021

## MARRIAGES

Emma Nicole White & Edward Francis Wilson		13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Norma Ruth Moore & James Samuel McIlroy		12 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Gillian Margaret Jane Kenwell & Mark Duell		21 <sup>st</sup> July 2021
Rachel Hannah Marks & Andrew William Wharry		20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021

## DEATHS

Martha Neill	3 Old Mill BT40 1LP	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Patricia Patrick	Burleigh Hill House NH, Carrickfergus	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2020
Maisie Jane Beggs	15 Bay Park	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020
Sheila Anne Gilliland	8 Bay Park	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021
Florence Hazel Lilley	37 Glynn Road	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2021
Robert Reginald Malcolm	18 Killyglen Road	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021
Roberta Snoddy	9 Corran Manor	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Stewart Harte	57 Carson Street	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
Ann Thompson	10 Dunboyne Gardens	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Martha Saunderson	12 Inverview Road	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
John Henry Edge	107A Ballycraigy Ring	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
Colin Huxley	6A Station Road	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Evelyn McCaughey	36 Walnut Park	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Stephanie Ann Wallace	40 Parklands	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Constance Henrietta Crawford	Larne Care	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Daniel McFall	7 Casement's View	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
William Magee	10 Kiln Grove	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
John Crawford Magill	4 Bryan Street	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021
Martha Violet McMurray	3 Drummond Court	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
Ramsey Dawson Ewart	17 Wheatfield Heights	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
John McClenaghan O'Neill	4 Dunboyne Gardens	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
Rosena ("Rhoda") McDowell Davison	Drummaul House Care Home	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021

## Starting back.....with common sense

On the following pages there are details of services, events and organisations restarting after the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst most restrictions have been relaxed, things are still not quite what they were before this all began.

First Larne still has to maintain a record of attendees for track and trace purposes. If you intend to attend a service you can register using the Eventbrite link on the church website. Alternatively you can record contact details as you enter the church.

Common sense restrictions still apply – If you have any Covid-19 symptoms please do not attend.

You do not have to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to attend church or have proof of vaccination.

Hand sanitiser will be available in the church foyer. Face masks must be worn.

Social distancing rules have been relaxed to a separation of 1m...which means we have more space for churchgoers!

Singing is allowed, although behind masks.

It is still necessary to record where people sit for track and trace reasons so stewards will continue to take people to their seats, filling from the front of the church. At the end of the service please remain in your seat to allow people behind you to leave and maintain social distancing. Stewards will indicate when you can leave.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> :**

11am Back to School Sunday "The Boat and the Breakfast" Jn.21 v.1-11

**Sun 12<sup>th</sup> :**

11am Communion "Another Look? – at the world"

7pm Communion "Another Look? – at others in my life"

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> :**

11am "Another Look? – at church"  
Infant baptism

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> :**

11am "Another Look? – living in an unjust world"  
with input from a representative of  
International Justice Mission

## OCTOBER SERVICES

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> :**

11am "Another Look? – at myself"

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> :**

11am Harvest - "Birds"

7pm Harvest Praise - "Water"

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> :**

11am "Another Look? – at God"

Note : Kirk Session plan to have autumn evening services in the Meeting House on the second Sunday of each month.

## OTHER EVENTS

**Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm : Community Fun Day**

**Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am : PW annual conference** - Guest speaker Sophie de Witt. Open to anyone & everyone & will be streamed live - found at [www.presbyterianireland.org/PresbyterianWomenAnnualConference2021](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/PresbyterianWomenAnnualConference2021)

**Tue. 28th September 7pm CALLING ALL SINGERS!**

On this evening we invite choir members and any others to gather for an informal opportunity to sing for fun and with a purpose. All appropriate guidance will be observed. Contact Stephen Reid for more details.

## **Church Organisations Update**

**Choir** At present the choir are not performing at services. However we hope to start again soon – please see the "Calling All Singers" event above.

**Creche** At present the crèche is not running formally and there are no play facilities available. However the Minor Hall is available for parents to use if required.

**Kids Church** will resume on September 5th, alongside the morning service.

**FLY (First Larne Youth)** will resume activities on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

**Youth Church** will start again on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 11am.

**Toddler Group** are planning to re-open on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers will of necessity will be restricted so please e-mail [toddlergroup@firstlarne.org.uk](mailto:toddlergroup@firstlarne.org.uk). giving us your name and phone number. We will then contact you with booking details.  
Janet Tweed

**First Larne Indoor Bowling Club** will commence their winter season activities on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30pm.  
Rodney Moore

**Monday Afternoon Bowling Club** hope to start again in September but the exact date is to be confirmed. For more details contact Mary Magill 07999687307

**In Stitches** intend to start back on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10:30am. All craft enthusiasts are very welcome. The meeting room in the church to be confirmed. For further information contact Judith Evans 07811444818

**PW** are looking forward to resuming again on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September. It will be an informal evening with a warm welcome being extended to all ladies whether existing members or coming for the first time.  
Janet Tweed & Lorna Swann

# Church Organisations Update (cont.)

**Women's Circle** will start their season with a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2:30pm in Room 4.

Ina Ross

**Girls Brigade** are hoping to start back in October but are currently waiting on confirmation from GBN headquarters. As soon as a date has been decided, we will post on our Facebook page and on the church website. For further information you can contact Deborah Dines on 07734 996901.

**Guides & Rangers** (For all girls aged 10-18) hope to resume on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September and will be run fortnightly until Christmas from 7.30-9.30pm. All girls will be made more than welcome. For more information contact Kathryn Swann on 07889827811

**Wee Cup of Friendship** : Due to the limited numbers required by Covid-19 regulations we have no plans to have a gathering at present. We look forward to the time when we will be able to meet again  
Bev Moore

**LIKE US ON facebook**

# First Larne

Presbyterian Church

## Community Fun Afternoon & Craft Fair

Saturday 4th September

### 14:00 - 16:00

**Bouncy Castle & Inflatables**

**Tea & Coffee**

**Live Music**

**Emergency Services**

**Mobile Farm**

**ICE CREAM**

**FOOD**

**SO MUCH MORE**

**Climbing Wall**

**Admission FREE**

Supported by

**Mid & East Antrim Borough Council**

**First Larne Presbyterian Church**

# First Larne Baptisms

"Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me" Mark 9 v 37



Luca James Connor, pictured with mum and dad, Darell and Sophie, and Rev McClure, was baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> December.



On 13<sup>th</sup> June Hugh Edward Andrew McCluggage was baptised by Rev McClure with the aid of a teaspoon due to Covid 19 restrictions! Hugh is pictured with mum and dad James and Debbie, and siblings Will and Erin.



## First Larne Weddings.....



Nicole White and Eddie Wilson were married on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Ruth Moore and James Mclroy were married on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### AND FINALLY.....

A foursome of senior golfers were overheard when climbing the steep first hole at Cairndhu Golf Club.....

"Ballygalley Head must be getting steeper" puffed one.

"Aye, and these fairways seem to be getting longer and longer" said another.

"The bunkers seem to be bigger than I remember" said the third.

After hearing enough from his friends, the oldest, and possibly the wisest of the four of the octogenarians, piped up and said, "Aach come on boys, the sun is out and we're out in the fresh air, just be thankful we're still on this side of the grass!"

First Larne Presbyterian Church, Inver Road, Larne Tel 028 28269968

Minister : Rev Dr Colin D McClure Tel 028 28272441 Mobile : 0798 4030881

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